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THE MONTHLY

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

BULLETIN

Volume 47 | Berkeley, Calif. | July 1965 | Number 7

## OFFICERS ELECTED JUNE 10

Officers for 1965-66 were elected at the Golden Gate Audubon Society's annual dinner, June 10:

| | |
|---|---|
| President | A. Warren Larson |
| Vice President | Miss Bertha Underhill |
| Vice President | Robert Peterson |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Alice D. Radcliffe |
| Recording Secretary | Miss Patricia Triggs |
| Corresponding Secretary | Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson |
| Director | Robert C. DaCosta, Jr. |

Conservation Resource Center will be Closed for inventory; June 21 to July 12, 1965.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR JULY

**Saturday, July 10,** South Peninsula Coast. Murrelets, murres, guillemots, purple martins, grasshopper sparrows, red-legged partridges (introduced), and black swifts could be seen by covering a variety of habitats. Meet at the Municipal Pier parking lot of Princeton on Half Moon Bay at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader, Ted Chandik, 321-9981 (Palo Alto).

**Saturday-Sunday, July 24-25,** Echo Summit in High Sierra. Many birds of Canadian and Transition zones may be seen here. From Sacramento take Highway 50 through Placerville. Turn off highway at "Echo Lakes" sign and go to end of road. Here, at the California Alpine Club's Echo Summit Lodge, meet at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday and 8 a.m., Sunday. Leader, Miss Patricia Triggs, MO 4-8502. (Additional details in June *Gull.*)

AUGUST BOAT TRIP: **Saturday, August 28,** boat trip off the coast of Monterey. Departure time is 9 a.m. from Sam's Wharf in Monterey and return time is 3 p.m. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the Monterey area. Black-footed albatross, sooty and pink-footed shearwaters, fork-tailed, black and ashy petrels can be seen. Fare: $4.50 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Calif., 94109. NO RESERVATION WILL BE

ACKNOWLEDGED UNLESS A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED WITH YOUR CHECK. Deadline for reservations is **August 10**. Leaders, Guy McCaskie, 460-1205 (San Diego) and Rieh Stalleup, 569-3185 (Oakland).

— MRS VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

Note: There will be no Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety meeting in July.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my year as president of Golden Gate Audubon Society draws to a elose I thank all those persons who had the confidenee to eleet me to the offiee. It has been a wonderful experience to work with sueh a devoted group of persons. Each person with whom I've had the opportunity to talk has been one interested in some aspeet of nature and its wonders. Each has related interesting experienees. As I beeame better acquainted with the offieers making up the Board of Governors I learned that these were devoted supporters of eonservation in the sense of its wise use by all. They are advoeates of Nature's proteetion for those who may come after us so they, too, may enjoy some of Nature's bounties.

Many of the eitizens of our eity, state and nation are more cognizant of the need of judieious preservation of Nature. Our fellow citizens are finding it an advantage to belong to a recognized conservation organization. Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety has the largest membership it has ever had, and we are happy to have more people join. As individuals we must be of even greater influence to our fellow eitizens. We would like to eneourage greater partieipation by leaders of all groups so they ean pass to their people the wisdom of eonservation.

The Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety and its members have eontributed money, time and talents to helping the Marin Audubon Soeiety form the loeally famous Audubon Canyon Raneh. We eontributed money to assist in the protection of the Condor and to other important eonservation projeets.

Your offieers are looking forward to another successful year, and we welcome your suggestions as to how we might be of more service to you, the members. — A. WARREN LARSON

## COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Little rays of sunshine may be found under the lowering elouds of "progress" whieh threatens wildlife and open spaee in 20th Century North America. For instanee: 15 bighorn sheep were sent from Banff National Park to a New Mexico wildlife range; 14,000 salmon trapped in Maine were liberated in a Massachusetts lake — first in that state in a eentury. Colorado has repealed the bounty on the mountain lion but left it as a "game animal," and an "Alligator Proteetion Bill," H.R. 8038 by Rep. T. A. Thompson of Louisiana proposes to ban from interstate eommeree all reptiles and amphibians taken in violation of any state law. So now that lawmakers are taking notiee of the long-suffering reptilian elan perhaps we may even hope that Ameriean women may some day stop buying leopard skins and 'gator hide wear before it is too late to save the species!

Not so bright and encouraging are reports from the "progress at any cost" engineers and master developers, aided by certain politicians, who want desperately to embark on gigantic schemes which could spell "big dam foolishness." We again urge you to read everything available on the Bridge and Marble Gorge dams planned for the Grand Canyon – and on the Rampart Dam on the Yukon in Alaska, which would wipe out some 5% of our waterfowl breeding resources, as well as considerable fish and big game range. Meanwhile, increasing pollution of the Great Lakes "must surely shock the conscience of every thoughtful American," says Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wis.) Could that some day be the San Francisco Bay picture when we get all that San Joaquin drainage and invite factories and subdividers to fill and build up most of our remaining bayshores? For a handy object lesson – better go watch the monster dredge – piling up dike opposite our precious McCartney Marsh on Bay Farm Island.

Keep working for a National Redwood Park and don't be misled by alternate proposals for a "scenic parkway" or other plans – urge our friends in the Sierra Club, Save-the Redwoods League, and hosts of others. But we also have *big trouble* nearer home as, at this writing, the State Legislature has deleted from Park Bonds acquisition plans the Mt. Tamalpais expansion, Golden Gate Headlands, Ft. Funston and other Northern California projects due to objections raised by a Southern California lobby!

– PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

FARALLON ISLANDS – Some forty members and friends of the Golden Gate Audubon Society went out to the Farallon Islands on Sunday, April 25, aboard Privateer II to see migrant and breeding pelagic birds. The day was bright and sunny, but a spanking north wind which churned up a sizeable sea made the thirty-five mile trip out from the Golden Gate a rough, wet one.

Those who avoided sea-sickness were well rewarded. Although no unusual species were found, more shearwaters were about than is usually the case in spring near the Farallons. South and east of the islands, the boat passed through numerous resting flocks of Sooties which pattered up at our approach. At least one Pink-footed Shearwater came in close to the boat.

Among alcids, the usual massses of Cassin's Auklets were feeding off the east side of the island. At least a dozen Tufted Puffins were seen on and around the high rock stacks, and two puffins in full nuptial plumage permitted close approach on the water north of the main island. Two Rhinoceros Auklets were seen at a distance. At the main island, thousands of murres were established on rock ledges, and the curious high piping of hundreds of Pigeon Guillemots flying in and out of the nesting cliffs could be heard over the roaring surf. A single Black Oystercatcher was resting on an outer ledge.

Offshore migrants were much in evidence on both legs of the trip. Many small flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls pressed north into the wind, flying low over the water, but, disappointingly, there were no Sabine's Gulls. All

three species of loons were flying north in breeding plumage, as well as many Northern and a few Red Phalaropes. No Black-footed Albatross put in an appearance, and the only petrels were a couple of distant "gremlins" which could never be properly seen. – ROBERT O. PAXTON, *Leader.*

YOSEMITE – About 100 members and friends of the Golden Gate Audubon Society came out for the annual Yosemite trip May 21-23. The weather included fog, rain, snow and sunshine. The birds ranged from Calliope Hummingbird to Great Gray Owl. We divided into smaller groups to enable us to maneuver more easily through the Valley and mountains. One group, led by Marie Mans, was fortunate in seeing and hearing the male Blue Grouse booming in courtship.

I want to thank all the people who helped to make this trip a success: Miss Marjorie Atkinson, who for many months prior to this trip handled all the reservations for the 50 accommodations we had at Camp Curry, and William J. Monheit, who made an elaborate registration sign. For Bill it was more than just an Audubon field trip. He and the former Lois Crowell were on their honeymoon. They were married on the way to Yosemite at the Historic Mariposa Court House. Congratulations and all good wishes, Lois and Bill Monheit. Also I want to thank the following people for doing an excellent job in leading the various Yosemite groups: Mrs. Bud Fry, Warren Larson, President of Golden Gate Audubon, Miss Marie Mans, and Mrs. Elsie Roemer. – MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS – "I wish to report observing a Franklin's Gull at the shoreline of Bolinas Lagoon directly in front of Audubon Canyon Ranch entrance. The observations were made several times Saturday afternoon, May 1. The gull was an adult in full spring plumage; however, no rosy coloring on the breast was noticeable. When first observed the gull was swimming close to shore and I could not determine if it was a Franklin's or a Laughing. But it shortly flew to a near-by mud flat and the *wing windows* and reddish legs of the Franklin's Gull were very apparent. The gull was not in the company of any other birds, and when in the water it seemed to be swimming around aimlessly picking up bits of food from the surface of the lagoon. As mentioned before, the gull was in the vicinity of Audubon Canyon Ranch most of the afternoon. I made three separate observations from about 2 to 4:30 p.m." – Richard Bambach, San Francisco.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

There will be no field trips during the summer months. We will let you know in the fall as soon as they are planned to start. I hope you will have a nice vacation and will be able to get out into the country often and make a lot of discoveries there. This month we'll talk about some of the small creatures you may be coming across:

### The Spiders

A great many people are frightened of spiders. Actually there is little reason for this fear because the only poisonous spider in Central California is the Black Widow, and this is a quiet animal that hunts at night and stays hidden during the daylight hours. This spider likes to hide in dark places,

in basements, under boards, or in dark corners of garages, but it will not be found in our well-lighted homes nor in our gardens building orb webs. You will be able to reeognize the Blaek Widow because it is shiny blaek with a red, yellow, eream or orange mark on its underside. This mark is shaped like two triangles point to point. This spider is not vicious and will never ehase you. It bites only when it is frightened or is proteeting itself against attaek.

All spiders, as perhaps you know, have eight legs. On the garden spiders the legs are striped blaek and yellow. These are the builders of the beautiful orb webs, whieh are made of silk, upon which are strung sticky droplets in whieh small inseets are eaught.

It might be interesting for you to examine one of these webs earefully. If you toueh it almost anywhere exeept around the edges and on the supporting threads, it will stiek to your finger and in order to free yourself you will have to break the webbing. But on the supporting silk you ean run your finger along without breaking it for these threads are not stieky. They are used by the spider itself to walk on when it runs out to get its prey.

Spiders do not eat what they have eaught. They bundle it up in silk and then sink their fangs into it and suek out the juices, for the mouth parts of a spider are not made for ehewing.

A spider has a speeial way for eseaping from its enemies. It always earries along an eseape line, whieh it ean quickly attaeh to any objeet and fall safely to the ground.

There are many different sorts of spiders. Some dig holes in the ground from whieh they emerge for ehasing their prey. These are the grass or funnel-web spiders, so ealled beeause they build a funnel-shaped web in the grass and lie at the entranee waiting to eateh an insect. If a large one eomes their way, they sting it with a poison and then proeeed to suek it dry, but smaller ones are quiekly seized and sucked without waiting for them to quit their wriggling.

Spiders lay their eggs in a sort of coeoon whieh they spin. From the eggs tiny spiderlings hateh, whieh must separate from eaeh other as quiekly as possible or else they will eat eaeh other up.

There is a lot more to tell about spiders. If you want to hear some more, write me and I'll tell you another time.

Have a happy holiday! — JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS, 1965-66

Following are the dates for the 1965-66 season of Audubon Wildlife Films: Monday, Oetober 18, Monday, November 22, Monday January 3, Wednesday, February 9, and Monday, Mareh 7. Mrs. Franees Ellen Fallgatter, Film Chairman, reports that season tiekets are selling rapidly, but some tickets are still available and may be ordered by sending a $5.00 eheek (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety) to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. 94701. Please enelose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Five personally narrated films will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove Street.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

May 31, 1965

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 31, 1964: | | | |
| CASH AND SECURITIES (cost) | | | $4,899.21 |
| Fiscal year ended May 31, 1965 | | | |
| RECEIPTS: | | | |
| Membership Dues | | 3,850.75 | |
| GULL subscriptions | | 160.17 | |
| Interest and Dividends | | 227.78 | |
| BEQUESTS: Est. Josephine Knowles | 5,000.00 | | |
| Est. Chas. B. Lastreto | 7.68 | 5,007.68 | |
| AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS: | | | |
| Income | 2,380.00 | | |
| Expense | 1,438.54 | | |
| Net surplus | | 941.46 | |
| Field Trips, net surplus | | 201.45 | |
| NET RECEIPTS | | | 10,389.29 |
| | | | $15,288.50 |
| DISBURSEMENTS: | | | |
| GULL printing and mailing | | 1,936.44 | |
| Meetings | | 119.53 | |
| Operating Expense; Postage, Phone, Insurance, etc. | | 448.42 | |
| GIFTS & DONATIONS: | | | |
| Scholarships to Audubon Camp of the West | 187.50 | | |
| To Audubon Canyon Ranch: Promotional | 938.54 | | |
| Capital Improvement, Rest rooms | 500.00 | | |
| Memorial to Josephine Knowles | 1,000.00 | | |
| Memorial to Harold Peterson | 800.00 | | |
| Miscellaneous gifts | 73.50 | | |
| | | 3,499.54 | |
| NET DISBURSEMENTS | | | 6,003.93 |
| BALANCE TO SURPLUS | | | $9,284.57 |
| SURPLUS at May 31, 1965 Cash and Securities (cost) | | | $9,284.57 |

In January 1965 GGAS delivered to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc. a total of $38,967.27 (principal and interest) which it had held as agent for that organization, pending its confirmation of tax-exempt status.

— ALICE D. RADCLIFFE, *Treasurer*

## 4-H CLUB TO EXPAND CANYON RANCH PROJECT

The Ross Valley 4-H Club has almost reached its goal of collecting 444 books of Blue Chip Stamps to raise the $800 purchase price of one acre of Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Club sent us the following letter:

"It is wonderful to tell you that we have only 50 Blue Chip Stamp books to go — and we'll have raised enough for *Our Acre*. Because you all have been so interested and helpful, and because 'the word' of our project is even now reaching new friends, we are working toward a *Second Acre* . . . Please tell your friends we are going on. A few stamps from many people will carry the project to even greater success." — ROSS VALLEY 4-H CLUB c/o Agricultural Extension, Civic Center, San Rafael.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Mr. Donald L. Dahlsten; from Berkeley, Mr. William E. Corcoran, Miss Marion Craig, Mr. Carl D. Koelling; from Oakland, Miss Elizabeth Joan Bewley, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jeffery, Miss Mary E. Nadeau; from Richmond, Miss Marilyn T. Pratt; from San Francisco, Miss Ruthe L. Mangel; from San Lorenzo, Miss Sharon Daechler. — MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

## CANYON RANCH MEMORIAL GIFTS

Audubon Canyon Ranch received the following gifts of remembrance:

| *In Memory of*: | *Gift of*: |
|---|---|
| Henry U. Roeding | Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hohfeld |
| George Trueblood | Estate of Jessie N. Trueblood |
| Emma Vranna | Ruth L. Voss |
| W. B. Gibson | Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles |
| George Martin Oldenbourg | Dr. and Mrs. Jack Cathcart, Eugene Elerding |
| Mrs. Hazel Mayhew | Mrs. Inez Troxell |
| Harold C. Peterson | Margaret M. Simpson |
| Mrs. Eve Foree | Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Covel, Wilnetta Hyde, Miss Erline Hevel, Mr. and Mrs. Lew Villa, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Fischer, Mrs. Don Hurd, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowman, Mrs. Earl McIntyre, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Clopton, Dorothy E. Sparling, Leo's Normal Pharmacy, Mrs. Alfred H. Hawkins, Earl and Violette Doxee, Dr. Jacob J. Yee, Mrs. Vivian H. Littlefield, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Foree, Vera A. Parker, Chris and Jean Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wagenet, Mr. Robert D. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Ronald, Mrs. George C. Browne, Mary C. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bilota and son, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. William I. Lee, Jack and Pat Hanford, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Skoog, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smiley. |
| Mary Turner Underhill | Faculty and Personnel of Pinole-Hercules School #2, Pinole, Calif.; Faculty of Montalvin Manor School — John C. McPherson, Principal; Mrs. Edward G. Darrow. |

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

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# GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President | A. Warren Larson | 44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7 | 525-9149 |
| Vice President | Miss Bertha Underhill | 35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley | 848-0131 |
| Vice President | Robert E. Peterson | 575½ Liberty St., San Francisco | 826-7079 |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Alice D. Radcliffe | 2101 Bay St., San Francisco | JO 7-5856 |
| Recording Secretary | Miss Patricia Triggs | 2038 - 33rd Ave., San Francisco | MO 4-8502 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson | 4 Willow Lane, Kensington | 525-2702 |
| Director | Miss Aileen Pierson | 810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco | JU 7-416[illegible] |
| Director | Miss Erline Hevel | 425 Ulloa St., San Francisco | 661-4251 |
| Director | Robert C. DaCosta, Jr. | 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9 | 931-5257 |
| Editor | Mrs. Violet Homem | 6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 11 | 655-8886 |
| Field Trips Chairman | Mrs. Valeria DaCosta | 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9 | 931-5257 |
| Membership Chairman | Mrs. Marjorie N. Wilson | 3839 Divisadero St., San Francisco | WE 1-2371 |
| Program Chairman | Thomas 8. Williamson | 1115 Green, San Francisco 9 | OR 3-2571 |
| Education Chairman | Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg | 2585 Union, San Francisco 23 | WA 1-9449 |
| Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman | Dr. Albert Boles | 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10 | GL 1-6267 |
| Wildlife Film Chairman | Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter | 406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 11 | OL 5-9582 |
| Conservation Chairman | Paul F. Covel | 2860 Delaware St., Oakland 2 | KE 6-4120 |
| Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman | Mrs. 8onnie Smith | 555 Dewey 8lvd., San Francisco | OV 1-7635 |
| Canyon Ranch Fund Raising | Mrs. Myra 8rowne | 482 Broadmoor, San Leandro | 568-1921 |

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDU8ON SOCIETY
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